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GEIKIE'S GEOLOGICAL SKETCHES.¹—This collection of essays, by one of the foremost geologists of the day, not only contains some matter of purely geological interest, but will serve, by the genial spirit and clear, attractive literary style of the author to attract the notice of that large and increasing class in the community—our general readers. The study of geology has gained new interest and fascination in these latter days in connection with biological questions, and from the fact that no tourist can travel through a land and appreciate the nature of its people, without taking into account the qualities of the soil they inhabit. While writers like Buckle and perhaps Taine have carried to an extreme the independence of man and nature, overlooking the social and moral forces, as well as the laws of heredity; how dependant the making of a people like the English, for example, has been upon the physical geology of Great Britain is well brought out by Professor Geikie in the closing sketch of this book—a chapter which will, perhaps, interest the thoughtful reader as much as any in the book.

Again, fresh attention is being called, especially by some American and Canadian geologists, to the pervasive and powerful agency of so simple a geological agent as rain in eroding lake basins and river valleys; this hitherto not sufficiently appreciated agent having been kept too much in the background by extreme glacialists. The effect on the mind of so good and fair an observer as our author, of the results of atmospheric erosion in the volcanic region of Auvergne in France, bears the strongest and clearest testimony to the past as well as present intensity of pluvial forces, which have done nearly, if not quite as much as plutonic agencies in making our earth what it is.

But none the less is Professor Geikie on proper occasions, a staunch glacialist, and in the interesting record of his Norwegian journeys, we have fresh confirmation by an expert, of the well-grounded theory that laid ice once capped Scandinavia as well as Scotland, the present representatives being but pigmies compared with the former rivers of ice, which filled and remolded, aided by subglacial streams, the valleys of Northwestern Europe.

In the essay on rock-weathering we have further evidence that it will not do to build public structures of freestone or marble in northern countries like Great Britain or the Northern United States.

Professor Geikie's record of his rapid journey to Montana and the Yellowstone Park, which have been widely read and appreciated, find here a place of permanent preservation, and the stimulus of foreign observation and travel in the mind of one brought up in so small and isolated a geological area as the British Isles,

¹*Geological Sketches at Home and Abroad.* By ARCHIBALD GEIKIE, LL.D., F.R.S. Director General of the Geological Surveys of the United Kingdom, with illustrations. New York, Macmillan & Co., 1882. 12mo, pp. 332.

is perceptible in the succeeding chapter on the lava fields of Northwestern Europe.

TREAT'S INJURIOUS INSECTS OF THE FARM AND GARDEN.¹—One of the most hopeful signs of improvement in agriculture is the increased attention that is paid to injurious insects, the depredations of which have for many years attracted attention from entomologists, have at length forced themselves upon the notice of legislatures, and are now at last beginning to awaken the agricultural mind to the importance of the study of the life-history of the pests, with a view to combating them. In the words of the author, "There is a surprising lack of knowledge among otherwise well-educated people as to the life-history of even the most common insects. The question asked not only by those in my immediate neighborhood, but by letters from all parts of the country, show how slight is the popular knowledge on this most important branch of Natural History." Too true—even a non-entomologist finds himself surprised at the vastness of the ignorance, yet the mere asking questions is a great advance upon the state of mind that referred a plague of caterpillars to the providence of God.

In the two hundred and eighty pages of this little book all those insects that have developed into conspicuous pests are figured and described in terms sufficiently simple for the comprehension of any reader who is able to discriminate an insect from a spider or a myriapod, or the orders of insects from each other. That readers in search of knowledge may be without excuse, the author prefaces her work with information on the above essential points.

The subject is dealt with under the heads of, Insects injurious to Garden Vegetables; Insects injurious to Root Crops and Indian Corn; Insects injurious to Cereal Grains and the Grass Crops, including Clover; Insects injurious to Fruit Trees; Insects injurious to Small Fruits, and Insects of the Flower Garden and Greenhouse. In many cases methods of extermination or at least of palliation, that have previously proved successful are detailed, but, as is remarked with respect to the pea-weevil, in order to exterminate an insect from a district it is necessary that agriculture shall have progressed to such a point that all the farmers of a district shall mutually agree to carry out the proper measures in unison; in the case of the last-mentioned insect, such a result would be arrived at were all to cease the cultivation of peas for a simple year—a cheap price for the benefit accruing.

Among facts not very widely known are the destruction wrought among cabbages, by *Plusia brassicæ*, Riley; and that caused on parsley, carrot, and other cultivated umbellifers by the

¹*Injurious Insects of the Farm and Garden.* By MARY TREAT. Fully illustrated. New York, Orange Judd Co., 751 Broadway. 1882.